



Washington Park Arboretum

North Entry and Multi-use Trail Projects

June 8, 2011

Meeting Minutes

6:30-8:00 PM

Q: What is the easiest/quickest flow-through intersection (Foster Island/Lk Wa Blvd) ?

A: Roundabout.

Q: You need to have WSDOT Return Peninsula to Arboretum.

A: It is in the works (Paige Miller)

Q: How is SR 520 handling / studying traffic throughout the Arboretum and Montlake?

A: That is a WSDOT question. Pls visit <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/SR520Bridge/>

Q: What is the width and material of the multi-purpose trail?

A: Per advice from Cascade Bicycle Club – 10'-0 wide asphalt path with 2' wide gravel soft shoulder.

Q: What are the crosswalk locations?

A: One @ intersection of Arboretum Drive & Lk Wa Blvd, one @ parking lot north of Interlaken.

Q: Have pollution studies been performed?

A: That is a WSDOT question. Pls visit <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/SR520Bridge/>

Q: What does mitigation mean?

A: Mitigation is a means of providing compensation for impacts, typically environmental. In the case of 520 there are environmental impacts to the wetlands and buffers on the WSDOT Peninsula and those are being compensated for by mitigation in the area within the north entry area. There are other locations in addition to that where wetland buffers are being compensated for in the Arboretum.

Q: Building in open space? Why?

A: The Arboretum lost around 4,000 S.F. of office space promised to be made available in MOHAI. Now that MOHAI is being demolished we need to look elsewhere for the space. This is just a planning exercise to try and determine the most suitable location for a building pad within the design concept for the North Entry.

Q: Did you know that the Triangle property at Montlake is owned by Seattle Parks.? Could this be incorporated into somekind of Gateway?

A: We will look into this property as it could potentially be incorporated into the Boulevard plans.

Comment: Continuing Azalea Way to meet up with the Multi-use trail instead of dead-ending it at the pond makes good sense. The idea of a Rotary/ round-about at the intersection of Lk. Wa Blvd. and Foster Island Road also makes good sense

Comment: It would be nice to preserve as many inlets as possible for exploring via kayak and canoe.

Comment: The mounds are great; but, it would be nice if there were structures on all of them.

Comment: It would be nice to preserve some of the existing forms, i.e. columns.

Comment: Multi-use trails can be very dangerous for pedestrians because of the speeding bicycles.

Comment: Maybe posting hours of operation, specific to bicycles could cut down on bicycle/pedestrian conflicts

Comment: The multi-use trail is good because Lk. Wa. Blvd is too dangerous for cyclists

Q: Is the multi-use trail flat or does it have vertical curves. It really needs to be as flat as possible

A: There trail is going to have a lot of vertical curves because we are using existing trail beds. In fact, this may discourage commuters from using the trail and ease bicycle/pedestrian conflicts

Q: What are the Bike/pedestrian treatments at roundabout to insure safety?

A: There are islands at the crossing and a grade separation. There is also room for a car to pull into Foster Island Dr. prior to the crosswalk.

Q: Do you have any projections of the number of bike commuters that will use the trail and at what time?

A: We have not conducted a study yet.

Q: Will you consider spillover of bikes throughout rest of Arboretum

A: Yes, bikes are not allowed on the soft-surface trails in the Arboretum. We need to make a strong connection to Arboretum Drive so to create a loop.

Comment: Bike/pedestrian conflict will ensue and pedestrians won't use it

Response: We are hopeful, that because of the vertical curves, only recreational bikers will use the path and we can design control measures to reduce speed.

Comment: Do not see location of trail.. Concerned about 10-12 ft width and impact to Arboretum

Comment: Bike commuter vs pedestrian may not be an issue. It may all be about timing

Q: Why doesn't the SR520 EIS cover the topic of "Habitat"?

A: That is a WSDOT question. Pls visit <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/SR520Bridge/> and see the FEIS (Final Environmental Impact Statement)

Q: What are the plans for noise mitigation.

A: That is a WSDOT question. Pls visit <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/SR520Bridge/>. There will be special surface treatment to reduce noise and low noise walls on either side of the road.

Comment: More attention should be given to reducing noise

Q: What about terrain modifications to lower noise has there been a sound analysis?

A: The mounds that we have incorporated into the North Entry will help mitigate noise. Please visit the WSDOT website for more information

Comment: Need to keep through-traffic moving on Lk Wa Blvd

Comment: Work with SDOT on improving Madison intersection

Q: What about a Bike bridge/ overpass?

A: Too costly

Q: Are the Kayak launch places really necessary?

A: There has been a number of requests for additional small boat launches.

Q: How about Pedestrian overpasses to access west side?

A: They are too expensive

Q: Mitigation – why don't you find out what is required by WSDOT before planning?

A: It is going to be negotiation process.

Q: What will happen to the ramps.

A: They are all going to be demolished.

Q: What about a Roundabout at Madison and Lake Washington Blvd?

A: We will consult with our transportation planner about that one.

Comment: We need pedestrian bridges in the Arboretum.

Comment: You should extend the Arboretum clear to Montlake via Lake Wa. Blvd and the 520 lid.

Q: How is bus traffic going to be handled in association with the Montlake interchange?

A: That is a WSDOT question. Pls visit <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/SR520Bridge/>.

Comment: The arboretum does not need anymore parking.

Q: Are you going to conduct a Parking analysis?

A: Yes, we are still in the planning stages

Comment: Concerned about tower – no tower

Q: Are there any places north of Azalea Pond that the creek is culverted?

A: Yes, several short stretches, when it crosses Lk. Wa. Blvd., and North of the Wilcox bridge.

Q: Will you use pervious/rough material for multiuse trail as a natural traffic calming device to passively slow speeds

A: Yes, that is our intent

Comment: Keep traffic out of Arboretum.

Q: Will you be featuring the columns from the ramps? This would be a good opportunity to reflect on history and potentially incorporate art

A: Yes, saving a grouping of columns is shown in one of our design alternatives.

Q: Where is the multiuse trail on the plans? Red dotted line.

A: See the Red dotted line on the Site Analysis Plan

Q: Why are we not using Arboretum Drive for biking?

A: Arboretum Drive can be used for biking and it creates a great loop in conjunction with the proposed Multi-use trail

Comment: Consider saving remnants of the ramps

Q: How will people access Arboretum via light rail?

A: Montlake Interchange.

Q: Why not put the multiuse path adjacent to Lk Wa Dr east side – historic ?

A: Lk. Wa. Blvd. is a historic Boulevard and would be difficult to alter. Additionally there are steep slopes adjacent to a large portion of the Blvd. and it would take a lot of retaining walls to build the trail at that location

Q: Why not use Arboretum Drive as multiuse trail?

A: Arboretum Drive can be used for biking and it creates a great loop in conjunction with the proposed Multi-use trail

Q: Can you keep the multiuse trail as level as possible

A: We can't keep it flat and use existing trail beds. Trying to keep it flat would incur too much excavation and impact the plant collections.

Q: Are you going to study the multiuse trail effect on habitat

A: Yes, that will be included in our SEPA document if the project gets funded.

Comment: We did not talk about park enough and how these projects relate to the greater Arboretum

Comment: We did not talk about entire city context and how it's trail system

Comment: Need a bigger move – another extreme alternative

Comment: Need to stretch your imagination, make a big move

Comment: Like the comment about the "Big Move"

Comment: I like the roundabout.

Comment: Utilize the back road, Arboretum Dr to build connections to major intersections.

Comment: Add pedestrian overpasses at Japanese Gdn

Comment: It would have been nice to hear something about the main purpose of the Arboretum; for perpetuation and growth of trees and woody shrubs for public and academic research and studies.

Comment: Nice thinking on the park.

Comment: Very concerned about bike commuters on the multi-use trail

Comment: Very concerned that the ramps going away will pack the Arboretum with massive traffic. A terrible plan that will hurt the neighborhood and the Arboretum.